

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) A visual monitoring system for monitoring an interior area of an aircraft and providing a video signal to a remotely located monitoring station, the system comprising:

at least one camera positioned within a predetermined area of said aircraft;

an electronics subsystem adapted to be disposed within the aircraft, and in communication with said camera, for receiving an output video signal from said camera;

said electronics subsystem including:

a processor for converting said output video signal to a streaming video signal suitable for transmission in accordance with a wide area network protocol; and

a modem for converting said streaming video signal into a data stream output;

wherein said electronics subsystem is retrofitted on said aircraft for connection with an existing in-flight telephone system that transmits the data stream output to said monitoring station.

2. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein said electronics subsystem is contained within a single enclosure.

3. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein said processor comprises:
a central processing unit; and
a random access memory in communication with said central processing unit.

4. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising:
a read only memory in communication with said processor for storing a driver used by said processor.

5. (original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a universal serial bus (USB) port for interfacing said output of said camera with said processor.

6. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein said camera comprises a charge coupled display (CCD) camera.

7. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein said streaming video signal comprises an Internet protocol video signal.

8. (previously presented) A visual monitoring system for monitoring an interior area of an aircraft and providing a video signal representative of said interior area to a remotely located monitoring station, the system comprising:

at least one camera positioned within a predetermined area of said aircraft; and

a compact electronics component carried in the aircraft and located remotely from said camera, and in communication with said camera, for receiving an output video signal from said camera;

said compact electronics component including:

an enclosure;

a processor disposed within said enclosure for converting said output video signal to a streaming video signal suitable for transmission in accordance with a wide area network protocol; and

a modem disposed within said enclosure for converting said streaming video signal into a data stream output, said modem operatively connected between the processor and an existing in-flight telephone system on said aircraft;

wherein the existing in-flight telephone system transmits the data stream output from the modem to said monitoring station.

9. (original)The system of claim 8, wherein said streaming video signal comprises an Internet protocol video signal.

10. (original) The system of claim 8, further comprising a random access memory and communicating with said processor.

11. (original) The system of claim 8, further comprising a read only memory (ROM) communicating with said processor.

12. (original) The system of claim 8, further comprising a plurality of cameras disposed at a plurality of locations within said mobile platform and communicating with said processor.

13. (original) The system of claim 8, further comprising a Universal Serial Bus (USB) port for interfacing said camera with said processor.

14. (original)The system of claim 8, wherein said camera comprises a charge coupled device (CCD) camera.

15. (previously presented) A visual monitoring system for monitoring an interior area of an aircraft and providing a video signal representative of said interior area to a ground station, the system comprising:

at least one camera positioned within a predetermined area of said aircraft for generating an output video signal representing a designated area which said camera is focused on; and

a compact electronics component carried in the aircraft and located remotely from said camera, and in communication with said camera, for receiving said output video signal from said camera;

said compact electronics component including:

an enclosure;

an interface port associated with said enclosure for interfacing with said camera to receive said output video signal;

a central processing unit disposed within said enclosure and in communication with said interface port for converting said output video signal to a streaming video signal suitable for transmission in accordance with a wide area network protocol; and

a modem disposed within said enclosure in communication with said central processing unit for converting said streaming video signal into a data stream output for transmission;

said visual monitoring system further comprising an existing in-flight telephone system on said aircraft to which said visual monitoring system is retrofitted; wherein said in-flight telephone system transmits the data stream output to said ground station.

16. (original) The system of claim 15, wherein said interface port comprises a Universal Serial Bus (USB) port.

17. (original) The system of claim 15, wherein said streaming video signal comprises an Internet protocol streaming video signal.

18. (original) The system of claim 15, wherein said camera comprises a charge coupled device (CCD) camera.

19. (original) The system of claim 15, further comprising a plurality of cameras disposed in predetermined locations within said aircraft and simultaneously interfaced with said interface port for providing video pictures of said predetermined locations within said aircraft.

20. (currently amended) A method for visually monitoring a predetermined location within ~~a mobile platform~~ an aircraft and providing a substantially real time video signal representative of said predetermined location to a base station, said method comprising:

using a camera to monitor a predetermined location within said ~~mobile platform~~ aircraft and to generate an output video signal in accordance therewith;

using an electronics subassembly to receive said output video signal and to convert said output video signal into a streaming video signal in accordance with a wide area network protocol;

using said electronics subassembly to convert said streaming video signal into a format suitable for transmission over an existing in-flight telephone system of the ~~mobile platform~~ aircraft to which the electronics subassembly is retrofitted; and

sending the converted signal to the telephone system for transmission to the base station.

21. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein using said electronics subassembly to convert said streaming video signal comprises using a modem.

22. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein using said camera comprises using a charge coupled device (CCD) camera.

23. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein using said electronics subassembly to receive said output video signal comprises using a universal serial bus (USB) interface to receive said output video signal and to convert said output video signal into said streaming video signal.